

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1029
(Legislative Council)
(Employee Benefits Programs Committee)

AN ACT to create and enact four new sections to chapter 54-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to state employee service awards, employer-paid tuition, and employer-paid professional organization membership and service club dues.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 54-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

State employee service awards. Each state agency, department, or institution may establish rules or policies for employee recognition and service award programs. Executive branch agencies having employees in classified service are subject to rules adopted by North Dakota human resource management services and approved by the state personnel board and the legislative council's administrative rules committee. Any other agency, department, or institution of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch may adopt similar rules or policies to ensure uniformity and consistency in state government. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each executive branch state agency, department, or institution, except an institution of higher education, having employees who are not in classified service and establishing rules or policies for employee recognition and service award programs shall submit the rules and policies to the office of management and budget for review and comment, and after addressing any comments of the office of management and budget, shall submit the rules and policies to the legislative council's administrative rules committee for approval. Within sixty days after the close of each biennial period, each state agency, department, or institution providing an employee service award under rules approved by the administrative rules committee shall file with the office of management and budget a report indicating the individuals receiving a service award, the amount paid, and a statement of the public purpose or benefit of the expenditures. Within ninety days after the close of each biennial period, the office of management and budget shall submit to the legislative council a report summarizing this information. An expenditure made under this section is deemed to be made for a public purpose and may not be construed as a gift for purposes of section 18 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 54-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Employer-paid tuition. Each state agency, department, or institution may establish rules or policies to provide employer-paid costs of training or educational courses, including tuition and fees, within budgetary constraints. Executive branch agencies having employees in classified service are subject to rules adopted by North Dakota human resource management services and approved by the state personnel board and the legislative council's administrative rules committee. Any other state agency, department, or institution of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch may adopt rules or policies to ensure uniformity and consistency in state government. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each executive branch state agency, department, or institution, except an institution of higher education, having employees who are not in classified service and establishing rules or policies for employer-paid costs of training or educational courses, including tuition and fees, shall submit the rules and policies to the office of management and budget for review and comment, and after addressing any comments of the office of management and budget, shall submit the rules and policies to the legislative council's administrative rules committee for approval. Within sixty days after the close of each biennial period, each state agency, department, or institution providing employer-paid costs of training or educational courses, including tuition and fees, under rules approved by the administrative rules

committee, shall file with the office of management and budget a report indicating the individuals receiving employer-paid costs of training or educational courses, including tuition and fees; the amount paid; and a statement of the public purpose or benefit of the expenditure. Within ninety days after the close of each biennial period, the office of management and budget shall submit to the legislative council a report summarizing this information. An employee who receives employer-paid tuition reported under this section who leaves employment with that employer within two years of receiving the tuition must repay tuition received under this section on a prorated basis. An expenditure for employer-paid training or educational courses, including tuition and fees, under this section is deemed to be made for a public purpose and may not be construed as a gift for purposes of section 18 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota.

SECTION 3. A new section to chapter 54-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Employer-paid professional organization membership and service club dues. Each state agency, department, or institution may pay employee membership dues for professional organizations and membership dues for service clubs when required to do business or if the membership is primarily for the benefit of the state. Within sixty days after the close of each biennial period, each executive branch state agency, department, or institution, except an institution of higher education, providing employer-paid professional organization membership and service club dues shall file with the office of management and budget a report indicating the individuals receiving employer-paid professional organization membership and service club dues, the amount paid, and a statement of the public purpose or benefit of the expenditure. Within ninety days after the close of each biennial period, the office of management and budget shall submit to the legislative council a report summarizing this information. An expenditure made under this section is deemed to be made for a public purpose and may not be construed as a gift for purposes of section 18 of article X of the Constitution of North Dakota.

SECTION 4. A new section to chapter 54-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Expenditure made pursuant to rule or policy. An expenditure made pursuant to a rule or policy adopted pursuant to sections 1 through 3 of this Act is not a criminal offense.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1029.

House Vote: Yeas 89 Nays 0 Absent 5

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2009.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State